However, as per the 1991 Census of India, there were 4,70,688 construction workers in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) Most of the States, including Andhra Pradesh, have not yet adopted the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Condition of Service) Act, 1996. Government, however, has been persuading all such States to adopt and implement the Act at the earliest.

Labour reforms

244. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 29th May, 2002 under the caption "panel questions labour reforms";

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government would have a second look before embarking upon sweeping labour reforms and amend the decade's old Industrial Dispute Act and Contract Labour Act in the light of the objections raised by the panel appointed by the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) The news-item appearing in Hindustan Times dated the 29th May, 2002, relates to the recommendations of the Special Group on Targeting Ten Million Employment Opportunities per year. The Special Group set up by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.P. Gupta, Member, has suggested that any changes in Industrial Disputes Act and Contract Labour Act should be accompanied by appropriate social security measures. The recommendations of the Special Group would be taken into account while carrying out any amendment in these Acts.